

SENATE BILL 1097

By Bowling

AN ACT relative to the bust of Nathan Bedford Forrest in
the Tennessee State Museum.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest bust commissioned in the year 1977, paid for by the Joseph E. Johnston Camp #28 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and donated by the Joseph E. Johnston Camp #28 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for placement in the second niche of the second floor of the Tennessee Capitol building, where it remained until Friday, July 23, 2021, shall hereby be moved from the Tennessee State Museum and transferred in full to the Sons of Confederate Veterans nonprofit organization to be managed by the General Executive Council of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and housed at the Sons of Confederate Veterans General Headquarters, known as "Elm Springs," located in Columbia, Tennessee.

SECTION 2. Tennessee taxpayer monies shall no longer be used to display, store, or maintain the Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest bust. All responsibilities for the care of the Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest Bust shall hereafter be assumed by the Sons of Confederate Veterans nonprofit organization. Tennessee taxpayer monies shall not be used to affect the physical transfer of the Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest bust from the Tennessee State Museum to the Sons of Confederate Veterans General Headquarters, and the total cost and labor to complete the transition shall be paid for and conducted by the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

SECTION 3. The appropriate level of care, handling, and protection for the preparation and transportation of the Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest bust shall be determined

and managed by the curators of the Confederate Museum at the Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Curators, legal representatives, and members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be allowed unrestricted access to the Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest bust under the care and management of the Tennessee State Museum for the purpose of an inventory audit conducted by delegates of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and for preparation of transition of the Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest Bust to the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization. Audit findings and results shall be made available to sponsors of this legislation and executive staff of the Tennessee State Museum.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.